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THE MORNING NEWS

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Lights Out at Earth Hour on Willem III Tower



Photo shows organizing member of Earth Hour Aruba presenting Minister Winklaar-Hooyboer a T-Shirt depicting this national activity.

This evening at 8:30, millions of people in more than 130 countries around the world will join together to celebrate and pay homage to our planet by turning off all lights for one exact hour. This event and the turning off of all lights have been dubbed "Earth Hour." As you join in this effort by switching off your lights, you are confirming to the world your commitment to personally take action that would benefit our planet for the rest of this year.

Recently EHACG (Earth Hour Aruba Community Group) made a courtesy visit to Minister of Culture, Economic Affairs, Culture and Social Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer, to share with her the different plans and activities the group has planned for today. The Minister assured the group that she will support the activity by switching off the lights on the Willem III Tower as a symbol of awareness with respect to our environment and sustainable development.

The government wants to be an example in this process. This should inspire our citizens to be more cognizant of the use of alternative energy and to reduce our energy consumption. Winklaar makes an appeal to the community for as many of us as possible to join in the ef-

fort and switch off our lights. This way we will be sending a message to the rest of the world that we too are participating in an effort to help create a better planet for our children and our children's children.

Here follows a call from Earth Hour Aruba Community Group.

Dear Aruba citizens and guests,

Today 26 March 2011 at 8:30 p.m., hundreds of millions of people in more than 130 countries across every continent will unite in a single moment of celebration and contemplation of the planet by switching off their lights for one designated hour – Earth Hour. By taking part in this global 'lights out' event they will be acknowledging their commitment to a personal action that benefits the planet in the year ahead. We, from the Earth Hour Aruba Community Group (EHACG), care very much about the future of our planet and are planning to participate in Earth Hour 2011. The main purpose of the EHACG is to encourage individuals, businesses, government and NGO's in Aruba to participate in this global event.

It is therefore that we are asking you to take part in Earth Hour 2011 and use the moment to acknowledge any initiative

you and your family members have committed to for the years ahead that benefits the environment.

By turning off all non-essential lighting during Earth Hour 2011, committing to a positive action for the planet and encouraging our citizens to do the same, you will help lead the growing global resolve to realize our role as custodians of the planet. Earth Hour also provides an excellent forum for all citizens, including business, individuals, parents and educators, to hold meaningful discussions about the ways that our community can take action and be part of the solution to our environmental challenges.

Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative – in Sydney, Australia – in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement with hundreds of millions of people from more than 4,500 cities and towns in 128 countries across every continent switching off their lights for Earth Hour 2010, creating history as the world's greatest ever environmental action. Some of the world's most famous man-made marvels and natural wonders, including China's Forbidden City, Eiffel Tower, Table Mountain, Great Pyramids of Egypt, Buckingham Palace, Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue, Niagara and Victoria Falls, Empire State Building, Sydney Opera House and many more global icons stood in darkness as a powerful symbol of landmark environmental action.

Earth Hour 2011 will be even bigger. It is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community throughout the world. It is a call to take responsibility for our environmental impact and join a growing international community who are committed to leading global environmental change. To get a better sense of the magnitude and inspiring nature of this global event, please take a moment to watch the Earth Hour 2011 video at www.youtube.com/earthhour.



A commitment to Earth Hour would enable all of us here in Aruba to not only express our concern about the health of our local environment, but to let all the people of the world know that we

stand with them in finding solutions to our environmental challenges and celebrating the one thing we all have in common – the planet.

Please visit www.earthhour.org for more information.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Haitian women suffer 'epidemic' of rapes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Haitian women left sheltering in squalid tent cities 14 months after a devastating earthquake are being terrorized by a plague of sexual attacks and rapes, rights activists said yesterday.

There has been a "relentless epidemic of sexual violence and continued impunity," said Lisa Davis, director of the international women's rights group Madre, at a conference organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Officials say some 800,000 people, out of the 1.3 million left homeless by the January 2010 quake, are still living in precarious and vulnerable conditions in the camps.

Davis said there had been little progress in the months since the 7.0 quake struck, leveling much of the Caribbean country's capital, Port-au-Prince.

"The majority of the camps

do not have facilities for the women and girls," agreed Eramithe Delva, from the Haitian organization Kofaviv which helps victims of sexual violence.

"As a result, the women and girls shower outside," she said. Her group registered some 465 cases of rape in the camps last

year, and 90 so far in the first two months of 2011.

Following an attack, the distressed women have no access to medical services which makes it difficult to report an assault as they are required to provide a medical certificate as proof, Delva added.



Sergeant Alvaro Rojas, who lost a limb due to a land mine explosion, rides a horse during a hippotherapy session at the Jose Maria Cordoba Military Academy in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, March 25, 2011. Hippotherapy, derived from the Greek word 'hippos,' meaning horse, is a treatment that uses the multi-dimensional movement of the animal as exercise for different kinds of patients such as mutilated soldiers, people who suffer from movement dysfunction or children with cerebral palsy.

Fourth hunt begins for Air France jet in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil -- A new search has begun for Air France flight 447 after it disappeared from radar over the Atlantic in June of 2009.

The new effort marks the fourth occasion in which workers have attempted to find the wreckage of the flight since it took off from Rio de Janeiro on the nearly two years ago. Rescuers hope to recover the flight's 'black box' flight recorders to help establish what had caused the Airbus A330 to go down. All 228 passengers and crew on board were killed.

The effort will be led by the BEA, the French government's

accident investigation authority, which said via its website that a vessel carrying specialised underwater robots had departed from the Brazilian port city of Recife on Tuesday. The team will utilise the robots to search the mountainous sea floor in the area where the flight had disappeared.

The search will also employ experts from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a US-based agency whose researchers have been given "operational responsibility" in the new effort. Workers will have a target search area spanning some 3,900 sq miles (10,000 sq km) and may last in excess

Peru, Van der Sloot: Hard drive evidence suggests murder was premeditated

LIMA, Peru -- New evidence in the Van der Sloot case suggests that the Dutch man had planned the murder of young Peruvian woman Stephany Flores on May 30, 2010.

After information technology experts conducted an exhaustive investigation of the hard drive from Joran Van der Sloot's laptop, in which they reviewed his sent and received email, Web pages he had viewed, financial transactions and even files that had been deleted between May 29 and June 4, 2010, they determined that the suspect had lied to the court system.

According to Van der Sloot's defense, the young man killed Flores out of a "crime of passion" after she began digging through his laptop in his hotel room in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 30.

She discovered that he had been accused of killing Natalee Holloway, which provoked a violent argument between the two that ended up claiming the life of the Peruvian woman.

However, after technical studies, it was determined that the pages related to Holloway's death had been viewed on Saturday, May 29, between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., a fact which is convincing enough to falsify the declarations of the Dutch man's lawyer.

Inquiries also revealed that after Flores' murder, pages were viewed with information about which Latin American countries do not comply with extradition, places to cross the border and bus companies in Chile. All of the evidence points to the idea that Van der Sloot was already planning his escape.

Lenin's niece dies in Moscow at 89

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) - Lenin's niece, Olga Ulyanova, the last surviving descendant of the Bolshevik leader's family, died in Moscow yesterday at 89, the governor of Lenin's native region of Ulyanovsk said in a statement.

Ulyanova, who was born in 1922, two years before her uncle's death, was the last di-

rect descendant of the Ulyanov family, Lenin's real surname, governor Sergei Morozov said.

She was the daughter of Lenin's younger brother Dmitry, a doctor who shared Lenin's revolutionary ideals and served in high posts in the health service after the 1917 revolution. He was born in 1874 and died in 1943.

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RBTT Bank working with the FTA towards a satisfactory solution

ORANJESTAD – Thursday, March 24, management of RBTT Bank met with representatives of FTA labor union to negotiate a satisfactory solution after a walkout by RBTT employees.

"We at RBTT Bank work constantly to be The Employer of choice, striving to create a work environment that attracts and maintains high-level professionals, in order to give our clients optimal service," commented an RBTT Bank spokesperson. "We apologize to all our clients for any inconvenience the situation may have caused," they concluded.

Enjoy a spectacular aquatic show with local medal-winner Anouk Eman and Reem Abdalazeem of Egypt

PASEO HERENCIA --Enjoy a spectacular aquatic show with local medal-winner Anouk Eman and Reem Abdalazeem of Egypt.

Paseo Herencia Shopping Center invites all the community to enjoy a synchronized swimming show tomorrow, March 27 and Tuesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Paseo Herencia pool. Guest performers include Aruban champion Anouk Eman and Reem Abdalazem from Egypt.

Anouk is 18-years-old and attending college at Lindenwood University. She stated that she will not rest until

reaching her goal of winning three Olympic gold medals for her country. This year, she has already participated at the University Invitational, and achieved regional qualification in the USA Collegiate National Championships. In April she will compete at the USA National Championships.

Reem Wail Abdalazem is also an 18-year-old at Lindenwood University and Anouk's synchronize swimming partner. Reem has participated in various international competitions, including the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, where she represented her homeland; together with Anouk, she is ready to put on a spectacular show.

Paseo Herencia is a staunch supporter of local athletes in their endeavors to compete abroad. Management of Paseo Herencia is proud to announce that Anouk Eman will soon have an honored place on their Wall of Fame.

Minister meets with National Commission For Innovation and Competitiveness

ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Economic Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer recently met with the National Commission for Innovation and Competitiveness (NCIC) and was presented with a plan for investigation and development on national innovation in Aruba.

At the beginning of 2011, the minister installed a national commission comprised of the public, private and scientific sectors with the objective of investigating and developing the potential for economic innovation for Aruba. The members of this national commission are: Ryan Peterson, Joyce Bartels-Daal, Zulema Dabian and Edward Erasmus.

During the meeting with Winklaar-Hooyboer there was ample discussion regarding national innovation and how to stimulate and develop Aruba's



economy and her competitiveness. Under the guidance of Professor Ryan Peterson, the commission prepared a strategic plan in which a distinctive plan of action was delineated, to include investigation, investment, education and a plan to stimulate innovation in the private and public sectors. In the months of March, April, May and June they will be

conducting specific investigative and educational activities together with public and private sectors.

This week there will be a special seminar at the University of Aruba dealing with the importance of human capital and the roll of women in our global economy. In the month of April, there will be another seminar regarding interna-

tional diplomacy and how to cultivate a corporate image for Aruba in international markets.

A national symposium with various international speakers will be organized in May on the topic of innovation and national competitiveness.

Along with the ongoing investigation they will begin researching in the private sector the factors and conditions that stimulate or hinder innovation and competitiveness. In this fashion the commission (NCIC) is contributing to our knowledge with respect to innovation.

The minister expressed praise for the commission and ensured the group of her complete support for the realization of their plan and action steps of the commission. She is convinced that the planned programs and activities will help fortify Aruba's economy in a sustainable fashion.



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Elmar N.V. unveils an important step towards Aruban energy independence



Elmar Technical Mgr Leopoldo Boekhoudt with members of the Utilities Commission



Minister de Meza and Roberto Henriquez with members of the Dutch delegation to Aruba

Executive management of Elmar N.V., the entity that distributes and administrates electrical power to the Aruba, welcomed press and island dignitaries to the San Nicolas offices to unveil a newly in-

stalled solar panel system on Thursday afternoon, March 24; the first phase of a three-pronged pilot project.

Aruba's Minister of Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy, Mike de



Guests and officials examine the new system

Meza, was present for the initiation of this renewable energy source for the utility company, and very excited at this definitive step in implementing the present administration's policy of attaining oil independence for Aruba in the near future.

The system for the San Nicolas office is comprised of 20 square meters of solar panels and will provide 3.2 kilowatts of power, approximately 20 kilowatt hours per day. "This is sufficient for the average home, depending on their needs," opined Alwin Croes of U.T.S. Alternative Systems and Supply, N.V., which ob-

tained and installed the system for Elmar. "It should reduce a monthly energy bill by about 350 to 400 Aruban florins."

Elmar Director Roberto Henriquez and Technical Manager Leopoldo Boekhoudt stated that two more pilot solar panel projects will follow in the next month; one at the Elmar headquarters in Oranjestad and the other at their offices in Hato. The benefits and costs will be examined and balanced, with the view to eventually installing such systems on all government buildings.

Minister de Meza stated this is just one of many such

initiatives which will deploy the latest technologies for harnessing renewable, "clean" energy. Another is waste-to-heat conversion, thus providing a solution for disposing of refuse, as well. He also mentioned the installation of a solar panel bicycle and jogging path of glass by TNO of Holland, which is partnering with Aruba in testing a number of new ideas for harnessing solar and wind power. "We should hope in the not-too-distant-future to see Aruba 100% oil independent," concluded Minister de Meza.

by Rosalie Klein

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3 generations of Van Marters enjoy their first Aruban family reunion



Mary and Larry

Mary Van Marter discovered Aruba and its many charms nearly 30 years ago during a "just us girls" getaway with her sister Margie. Mary was so taken with the island, she returned with some friends to stay at the Playa Linda Resort in Palm Beach a few years later. At this point, she knew she had to introduce her husband to this "little gem in the south Caribbean," and so as their 25th wedding anniversary approached, she convinced him it would be the perfect place to celebrate such a special occasion.

Their 1993 celebratory va-

cation was a great success, with Larry equally charmed by Aruba's assets, so they returned in 1995 and again the next year, when they purchased 3 weeks of timesharing at the Renaissance Resort Beach Tower.

Since then, Mary and Larry have returned nearly every year, or their daughters Vicki and Jody have used it with their husbands when their parents were unable. Last year, it struck them that nothing could make their weeks on the island more perfect than sharing it with all the family together, so Mary set to work to arrange the



The Van Marter clan all 3 generations

first Van Marter Aruban Family Reunion.

Eight days in paradise are now being shared by the Van Marters with Vicki, her husband Jay Wendt and their children Tyler and Rachel, along with younger daughter Jodi and her husband Greg Berven, with their sons Seth and Tyler. Having all the clan together has prompted Mary and Larry

to explore more and experience some island adventures, such as touring in a four wheel vehicle, which they had not tried in previous visits. They are only too happy to let the younger generation lead the way towards discovering elements of Aruba that will only enhance their already warm feelings for the island and its people. "We are always so

pleased with the welcome and treatment we receive at the Renaissance; settling in here was a decision we will never regret," commented Mary. "We are looking forward to a wonderful week with all our family-showing them our favorite places, and discovering new ones-together!"

by Rosalie Klein

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Apple iPad 2 on sale in 25 countries



PARIS, France (AFP) — Apple's eagerly-awaited iPad 2 went on sale Friday at 16:00 GMT in 25 countries in Europe, Oceania and the Americas, two weeks after its official launch in the United States.

First unveiled on March 2 by Apple's chief executive Steve Jobs, the new tablet has been on sale in 236 US stores since March 11.

A third thinner and nearly 15 percent lighter than its first-generation predecessor, the iPad 2 is also equipped with both front- and rear-facing

cameras for photography, movie-making or video chat.

It weighs 1.3 pounds (590 grams), down from 1.5 pounds, has the same 10-hour battery life as the previous model, and comes in black and white versions.

The manufacturing roll-out of the sought-after item could be in jeopardy due to the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan on the same day as sales were launched in the United States, according to IHS iSuppli.



An aerial view of the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant in Hanford, Washington state. Sixty eight years after the first-ever plutonium reactor was created, Hanford remains off limits because it is the Western hemisphere's most contaminated nuclear site with 53 million gallons (200 million liters) of radioactive waste stored in aging tanks. (AFP PHOTO)

Earth Hour aims for hope in darkened world

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) — Lights will go out around the world tonight with hundreds of millions of people set to take part in the Earth Hour climate change campaign, which this year will also mark Japan's earthquake and tsunami.

From across the Pacific, to Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas, iconic landmarks such as the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, New York's Empire State building and the Eiffel Tower in Paris will go dark.

"Earth Hour is like a New Year's Eve," Earth Hour co-founder and executive director Andy Ridley told AFP from the group's Sydney office.

"It's meant to be a celebration -- it's a bit different this year because of the Japan stuff -- but it's meant to be about hope and the future."

Ridley said in Sydney and other cities, some Earth Hour events would hold a minute's silence to mark the devastating 9.0-magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami in Japan this month that left more than 25,000 people dead or missing.

The disaster followed a deadly earthquake in New Zealand's Christchurch and massive floods in Australia in January, which devastated thousands of homes and ruined crops and infrastructure.

"It's been a bad start to the year, and I guess it's an opportunity to take a moment and think about that," Ridley said, adding that the campaign had a different focus in every location and not all events would mention Japan's catastrophe.

The Earth Hour movement, which aims to raise awareness about climate change by switching off lights for 60 minutes, hopes to bring people together to think about what they can do to reduce harmful carbon pollution blamed for rising temperatures.

Environmental group WWF International helped initiate Earth Hour in Sydney in 2007, and by 2010 the energy-saving event had grown to engage hundreds of millions of people in 4,616 cities and 128 countries and territories.

"We didn't imagine right at the beginning... it would be on the scale that it is now," said Ridley.

"And the fact that it is so cross-cultural, beyond borders and race and religion," he added, saying the event would never have grown so successfully without social networking sites such as Facebook.

This year organisers are focussing on connecting people



Photo taken on March 23, 2011 shows Earth Hour co-founder and executive director Andy Ridley posing in Sydney.

online so they can inspire each other to go beyond the hour and make commitments to help the environment in their daily lives.

To do this they have created an online platform connected to the 14 top social media sites around the world, including Facebook and Twitter, which people will be easily able to access from mobile phones.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard this week backed Earth Hour.

"Earth Hour has become a special symbol of the determination of so many people to make a difference," said Gillard, who is facing stiff opposition to her plan to introduce a tax on carbon pollution in Australia.

Ridley said that despite the growth of the event, which organisers said was the largest voluntary action ever witnessed in 2010, the ideals of

the global movement had not changed.

"When we first started this we were trying to effectively take the temperature, we were trying to prove or see whether, contrary to some commentators, whether or not people cared (about climate change)," he said.

"I think there is a massive consensus for action, not just on climate change."

"The idea of this is not to engage in the 'why we can't do anything' debate but absolutely talk about what can be done."

The first lights going off tonight will be in Fiji and New Zealand's Chatham Islands, before cities and landmarks around the world follow suit.

Other iconic structures due to go dark include the Sydney Opera House, Indonesia's National Monument, London's Eye and Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue.



Co-founder of UN Cells, Bobby Yampolsky poses with a mobile phone that his company made for Swiss luxury watchmaker Ulysse Nardin, claimed to be "the world's first and fine luxury hybrid smart phone," integrating a mechanical watch rotor into the telephone, during the Baselworld fair in Basel, Switzerland. With younger generations opting to use their mobile phones to tell time, the watch-making industry is being forced to go more high-tech to recapture consumers. (AFP PHOTO)



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Health & Living

US misses goal to wipe out TB by 2010

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States last year saw a sizable drop in the number of tuberculosis cases, but missed its goal of eradicating the disease by 2010, US health officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wrote in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that the number of TB cases hit an all-time low in 2010, with only 11,181 cases reported to public health authorities, a 3.9 percent drop in the number of cases compared to one year earlier.

But the US had hoped to eradicate the disease altogether, a goal US health experts said they were disappointed not to have met.

The CDC said that in six out of ten cases, TB patients were born outside the United States, and in more than half of the cases came from one of four countries: Mexico, the Philippines, India or Vietnam.

US health official said foreign-born people were 11 times as likely to have TB as those born in the United States.

The CDC said four states accounted for about half of the US cases of tuberculosis: California, Texas, New York and Florida.

The illness also was more prevalent among members of ethnic minority groups: TB



A worker demonstrates machinery to fill vials with individual doses of tuberculosis vaccine at a plant in Rockville, Maryland, in 2009.

rates among Hispanics, blacks and Asians were seven, eight and 25 times as high as among Caucasians, respectively.

Tuberculosis is caused by the mycobacterium tuberculosis bacterium, and can be cured with antibiotics.

However, a full course of treatment requires six to nine months to completely eradicate the microorganism, and many people do not finish the full treatment, which leads to the development of drug-resistant strains of the disease.

Health Tip: Keep Skin Smooth



-- Aging skin often means wrinkled skin. But there are steps you can take to minimize blemished, wrinkled skin.

If you want to help keep skin smoother, more supple and less wrinkled as you age, the University of Maryland Medical Center offers these suggestions:

*Eat a diet rich in fresh vegetables, fruits and whole grains.

*Include healthy oils, such

as olive oil, in your diet.

*Get plenty of regular exercise.

*Don't smoke, and avoid exposure to secondhand smoke.

*Don't drink alcohol within three hours of going to bed.

*Wash your face with a gentle cleanser, and use a moisturizer daily.

*On the other hand, don't wash with tap water too often, which can wind up drying out your skin. Once a day should be enough.

*Wear sunscreen daily. Avoid direct sunlight between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's ultraviolet rays are strongest.

*Manage stress, uncontrolled stress can make your skin more sensitive.

Walking Helps You Stay Healthier: Study

The American Podiatric Medical Association discusses a great form of exercise that requires no special skill, no membership at the local gym, and no special equipment: walking.

-Better circulation and a stronger heart and lungs.

-Reduced risk of stroke and heart attack.

-Reduced likelihood of high blood pressure or obesity.

-Improved cholesterol numbers.

-Stronger muscles and better tone in the legs and abdominal area.

-Reduced tension and stress.

-Better management of arthritis pain, and improved prevention of bone decay.

Australia carries out its first hand transplant



SYDNEY (AFP) — A man who lost his hands and feet to a bacterial infection four years ago has become Australia's first recipient of a hand transplant, a report said.

Peter Walsh, 65, underwent the successful nine-hour operation at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne this week.

"Peter was wriggling his fingers today," Professor Wayne Morrison, who led the 20-strong surgical team, told the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

"We actually don't want

him to be moving his hand yet, but it's demonstrating everything is connected. Everything is on track."

Walsh lost his hands, most of his left leg and part of his right foot four years ago to a bacterial infection which almost claimed his life.

"I'm not one for holding hands but it would mean so much to have hands again," said Walsh, a grandfather of 16. "I don't know who gave it to me, but I am so thankful for what they have done."

Whether his body accepts the new hand will not be known for days, or even weeks.

More than 60 hand transplants have been performed around the world since New Zealander Clint Hallam became the first successful recipient in 1998 in an operation carried out in France.

Early-bird special!

(starting at 5 pm)

Experience Aruba's most luxurious early-bird special, with a spectacular view overlooking the mall and water show at Paseo Herencia.

For \$29, there is a wide selection of delicious dishes to choose from.

À la carte (5 pm - 00:30 am)

Enjoy a wide selection of top-quality international dishes, while enjoying the dinner show. This is fine late night-dining at it's best!

Luxurious dinnershow package

(5 pm - 00:30 am)

These packages include the chef's best creations which you will enjoy at one of the VIP-tables. This is Aruba's Royal three-course-dinner-and-show treatment to you!



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Zissles brings you the exciting musical-production "D'Licious" six nights a week, starting at 7:30 pm. This Vegas/Broadway style dinner-show features over a dozen talented singers, actors and dancers who take you on a musical journey as they tell a story of following dreams. All this while you enjoy "D'Licious" food, combined with superb service.

Dueling PianoZ

After the dinnershow performance, Zissles immediately transforms into the best piano show on the island: **Dueling PianoZ**.

Piano entertainers Tammy T and Damian Cartier perform a humorous, all request, audience interactive show nightly from 9:15 pm with NO COVER CHARGE.

Dueling PianoZ is an excellent choice for every celebration, birthdays, anniversaries or any other event.

THIS will be the night you remember!

For a sneak peek of the show, information and reservations call 586 3800.

www.zissles.com



Opening jubilee exhibition of "Waldy Simson 20 anja den arte"



Tonight, at 7:00 p.m. the opening of the jubilee exhibition of "Waldy Simson 20 anja den arte" will take place at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

The ceremony will start with MC Lenny Denz, wel-

coming everyone to the exhibition. Youth choir Briyante, under guidance of Tica Giel, will sing the National Anthem of Aruba followed by a song composed by Mr. Simson.

Poetess Belen Kock, with

her unique voice, will recite the poems 'Aruba,' 'The Artist' and 'Hope', written by Mr. Simson.

After words of gratitude by Mr. Simson, the exhibition will open with the unveiling of the artwork 'Love'. Love is, size wise (156 x 104 cm), the largest tiffany work of art that Mr. Simson has made until now. The unveiling will be done by a group of friends who has contributed in a unique and positive way resulting that Mr. Simson can still participate actively in life.

Also on exhibition will be, among others paintings, tiffany, works based on a paper cuttings, ceramic, engravings, books and the DVD Hope.

Students can participate in a contest with the chance to win works of art made by Mr. Simson. The contest is about the exhibition and information posted on the Face book page of Mr. Simson.

Everyone is welcome to the opening of the exhibition.

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Purchasing property in Aruba: Retirement home or investment - why not both?



View of Jardines del Mar community

As the Caribbean's #1 return destination, we are all aware of how visitors are quickly won over by Aruba's many assets; the perfect weather and charming people always invoke thoughts of making it a winter or retirement home. Terry Orgel and her husband Richard made just such a choice when they toured the cozy Jardines Del Mar community adjacent to Eagle Beach a few years ago, purchasing not only a townhouse for their personal use, but an identical 3 bedroom/3 bath home as an investment.

"We were particularly impressed with the quality of construction and design; we love the high cathedral ceilings, along with the layout of the community," explains Terry, "the way the grounds and homes are maintained have convinced us we made the right choice."

Terry and Richard, natives of Memphis, also appreciate the feeling of small town community to which they were accustomed, and love the way they have come to know all their neighbors. They spend their winters on Aruba from December to April, and six weeks in the summer, escaping the worst cold and heat back home.

The unoccupied townhouse is in pristine condition; they are now putting it up for sale at the pre-construction price they paid for it, \$395,000. This is 20% less than the developers are asking for a new unit. "When we purchased, we considered renting it out, but then decided we just wanted to simplify our lives and not be landlords. We also believed real estate prices could only go up, but the world sit-

uation has changed, and we realize we need to be flexible."

Their prime corner units have larger kitchens and terraces than the other Jardines Del Mar properties, along with more windows, spacious rooms with large closets and a huge walk-in closet in the master bedroom, for a total of 2,000 square feet. The kitchen has brand new stainless steel appliances and a microwave, which is included in the sale price, and there is an additional outdoor kitchen and terrace, where they installed a barbecue in their home and entertain frequently. The management boasts a full time concierge, wi-fi, excellent security, and the complimentary fitness room will be completed by the end of 2011. For those considering owning property on Aruba, Terry may have exactly what you seek, at quite a bargain price. For more information call Terry at 743-1265; she can answer many of your questions regarding being a homeowner on Aruba based on her own experience.

The Orgels will continue to live at Jardines Del Mar even after the sale of their property. They love the section of Eagle Beach which is only a block away, and Terry regularly participates in water aerobics at Windie's Water Sport Center, which is right next to their community. "Buying our own home in Aruba was the wisest thing we ever did; we couldn't be happier. We encourage anyone considering this move to take the plunge, it was well worth it!"



Consumers Moving to Fuel-efficient 4-Cylinder Engines

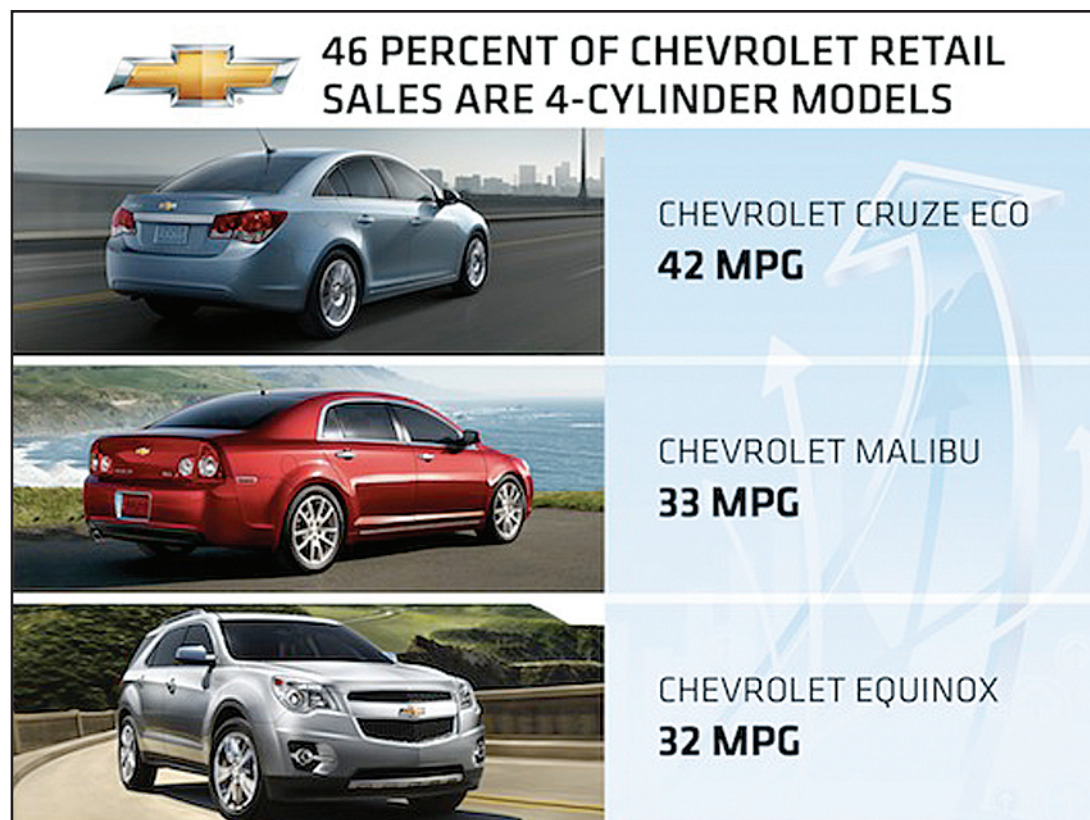
Smaller engines account for 46 percent of Chevrolet retail sales, up from 23 percent in 2007

Consumer demand for fuel efficiency and advancements in engine technology have moved four-cylinder models to the top of consumers' shopping lists.

In 2007, four-cylinder models represented 23 percent of Chevrolet retail sales in the United States, less than either V-6 or V-8 equipped models. So far this year that number has increased to 46 percent, making fuel-efficient four-cylinder engines the top choice in the Chevrolet lineup.

"Chevrolet's investment in advanced engine technology is reflected in the increased popularity of our four-cylinder models," said Rick Scheidt, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet. "These technologies offer the performance and refinement drivers expect from Chevy in smaller engines that deliver the fuel efficiency they want."

Customers are moving out of V-8 powered SUVs into V-



6 powered crossovers like the Traverse, and from V-6 powered cars and crossovers into

fuel-efficient four-cylinder models, such as Cruze, Malibu, and Equinox, he said.

"The shift in consumer preference evidenced by Chevrolet's lineup is a great

example of how much four-cylinder engines have improved across the industry," said Bill Visnic, analyst and senior editor for Edmunds AutoObserver.com. "Four cylinders used to be something to settle for. But advances in engine design and technology have made four-cylinder engines vastly more refined, and power output has increased to where V-6 engines were just a few years ago."

Stern Automotive Enterprises N.V. at Tanki Leendert 122 is the exclusive agent of Chevrolet on Aruba. Dedicated and experienced personnel are ready to provide the best service. For more information, visit their showroom at Tanki Leendert or call at tel. 582-3838.

**Chevrolet:
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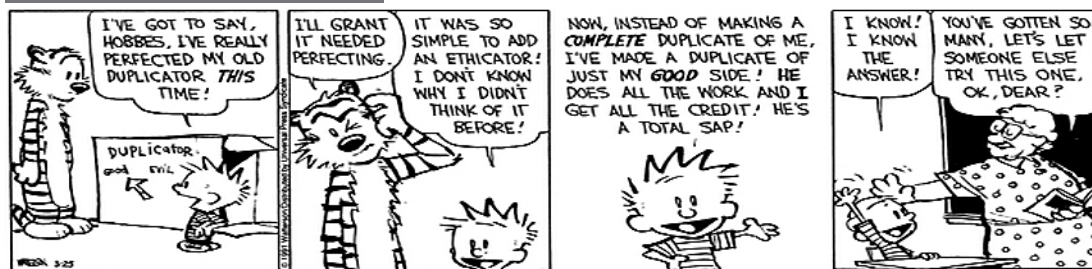
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ACROSS

1. "Surfin' ____"
4. Center of operations
7. Hoop group (abbr.)
10. Letters after R
11. Scourge
12. Football's Flutie
13. Comedian Caesar
14. Assorted appetizers
16. Super Bowl memento
18. "Don't bet ____!"

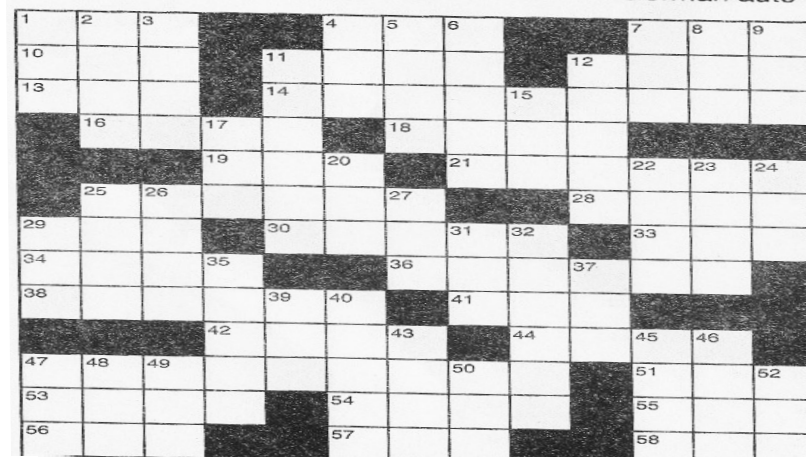
- (2 wds.)
19. Nectar collector
21. Celtic language
25. Rides in the Tour de France
28. Beavers' building projects
29. ____ the line
30. Support for an injured arm
33. Number-cruncher (abbr.)
34. "____ Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" (2 wds.)
36. Canal vessels
38. Morals

41. Letter to cross
42. Spotted
44. Caribous' kin
47. "Make room!" (2 wds.)
51. Ending for suburban or meteor
53. Robert E.'s kin
54. Landers and Jillian
55. Paving stuff
56. Bark snappishly
57. Born
58. High school subj.

DOWN

1. Ship letters
2. Ado
3. German auto

4. Leia's "Star Wars" hero
5. Biblical preposition
6. Human ____
7. Digits (abbr.)
8. Exception conjunction
9. Gone by
11. Lox recipients
12. Out of style
15. Entertainer Zadora
17. "Heroes" network
20. Electric fish
22. Intertwine
23. Mischievous ones
24. Civil War side (abbr.)
25. Price-tag info
26. Yes, informally
27. Bro or sis
29. Fasten shoelaces
31. Crooner "King" Cole
32. Salutes
35. Sponges off
37. Salon goop
39. U.S. spy org.
40. Car style
43. Accomplished
45. Franklin's flier
46. Ollie's pal
47. Deceitful
48. Shade of green
49. Agt.
50. One, in French
52. Work unit



Courtesy of



March 19 - March 26

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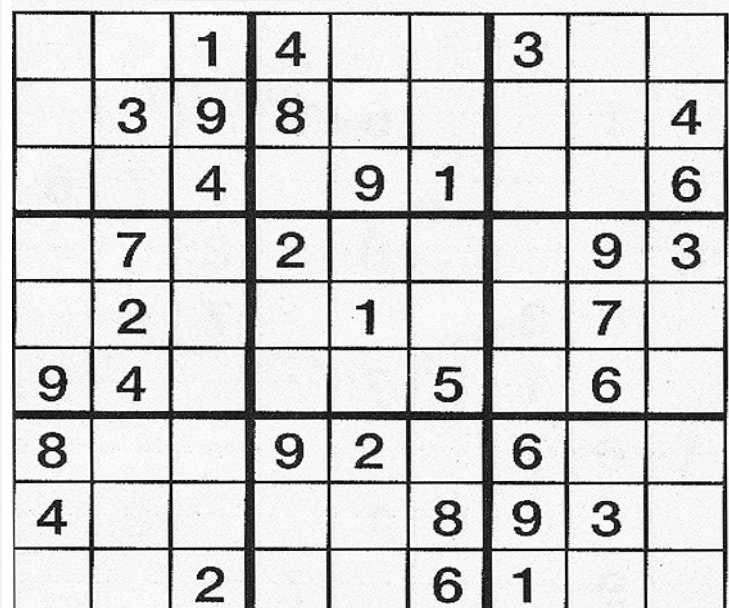
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	8	1	9	7	9	2	6	8
2	8	6	8	2	1	9	9	7
9	7	9	8	2	6	2	1	8
1	9	2	9	8	2	8	7	6
8	2	7	6	1	9	8	2	9
8	6	9	7	8	2	9	2	1
9	2	8	1	6	8	7	9	2
7	1	2	2	9	8	6	8	9
6	9	8	2	9	7	1	8	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS:

EU leaders wait on Portugal, markets bet on bailout:

BRUSSELS (AFP) – European leaders faced an anxious wait Friday as the markets bet that struggling Portugal will need a debt bailout despite Lisbon's protests it can avoid one in the run-up to tense elections.

After last year's massive bailouts for Greece and then Ireland, Portugal slipped towards the brink this week when prime minister Jose Socrates resigned after parliament blocked an austerity plan already agreed with eurozone partners.

"Portugal does not need a financial rescue plan and I will maintain this in defending my country," Socrates insisted after a European Union summit clouded by his country's financial troubles.

"I know what this meant for Ireland and Greece, and I don't wish it on my country," he added. Socrates has made clear he intends to stand for re-election at polls expected in May or early June.

Germany, the eurozone's paymaster and most powerful economy, meanwhile insisted that whoever takes power, Lisbon will have to swallow the bitter medicine needed to put its finances in order.

=====

Euro, stocks climb before EU summit:

LONDON (AFP) – The euro rose against the dollar and European stocks advanced, ahead of an EU summit set to focus on the eurozone debt crisis amid mounting fears that Portugal will soon request a huge bailout.

In morning London trade, the euro rose to \$1.4128 from \$1.4083 late in New York on Wednesday, a day after Portugal's parliament rejected a new austerity plan in a vote that prompted the resignation of Prime Minister Jose Socrates.

"The markets anticipated the Portuguese parliament's decision to reject the austerity plans and priced it in accordingly," said ETX Capital trader Anita Paluch.

"The bad news that caused strong reactions in the markets recently seem to have eased, less uncertainty for the future is pushing the market higher."

In stock market trade, the British capital's benchmark FTSE 100 index rose 0.85 percent to 5,844.84 points, Frankfurt's DAX 30 climbed 0.73 percent to 6,854.39 points and in Paris the CAC 40 grew 0.31 percent to 3,925.98.

The Lisbon market jumped 0.97 percent to 7,856.54 points in midday

=====

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EU offers Japan free-trade pact after quake



Funded by the European Union

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) – European Union leaders Friday offered quake-hit Japan a special pact granting preferential trade terms as it battles to recover from a natural disaster and nuclear emergency that has left more than 10,000 people dead.

The EU "should offer the potential launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement" at a summit between the bloc and Japan in May, it said in a last-minute addition to summit conclusions.

The concession, more wide-reaching than a similar humanitarian-based trade deal offered to Pakistan after disastrous flooding last year, was offered "on the basis that Japan is willing to tackle inter alia the issue of non-tariff barriers and restrictions on public procurement."

The Pakistan concessions remain tied up amid tough negotiations involving rival exporters such as India at the World Trade Organization, who also want better access to Europe's market of half a billion consumers.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said he "secured a specific reference" to the idea from partners round a summit table otherwise preoccupied with the Libya cam-

paign and Portuguese debt woes.

"I spoke to the Japanese prime minister yesterday and I said we will do all we can to speed recovery from the earthquake," Cameron told a news conference in Brussels.

"Today Europe has made the same pledge.

"I believe one of our priorities in order to demonstrate good faith must be to invite Japan to enter a free-trade area with the EU."

Japan and India signed a free trade pact earlier this month.

Tokyo is seeking more such partnerships as it looks to catch up with export rival South Korea and after China overtook it as the world's second-largest economy in 2010.

The EU is looking for ways to accelerate economic growth, with a debt crisis still hanging over the bloc.

Oil prices steady, Brent above \$115

LONDON, England (AFP) – Oil prices steadied on Friday at the end of a week dominated by concerns over unrest in Libya and the Middle East.

Traders also digested revised US growth data, which showed the economy growing faster than previously thought late last year, a key consideration as United States is the world's biggest oil-consuming nation.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May was up 20 cents to \$115.92 a barrel in afternoon London deals.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for May, gained 25 cents to \$105.85.

"The risk premium from the ... Libya fallout and jitters over Yemen is already priced in," said VTB Capital analyst Andrey Kryuchukov, explaining why prices were holding around current levels after recent gains.

Oil traders have been making deals in recent days against a backdrop of anti-government protests that have spread across the Middle East and North Africa, with uprisings in



Yemen, Syria and Bahrain after similar movements led to the recent ouster of leaders in Egypt and Tunisia.

In Libya, NATO late Thursday agreed to enforce a no-fly zone to stop Moamer Kadhafi's jets from attacking rebels while US, British and French planes continued to target his government's military resources.

Oil-rich Libya was producing 1.69 million barrels a day before the unrest but this has been virtually halted since.

"The main focus (for traders) remains on the ongoing political unrest in Libya, Yemen and Syria," said Myrto Sokou, an analyst at Sueden brokers.

Elsewhere Friday, official data showed the economy grew 3.1 percent in the fourth

quarter of 2010, up from the previous estimate of 2.8 percent.

Ahead of the data, the US government announced that US gasoline (petrol) stockpiles dived by 5.3 million barrels last week.

The market is closely following the level of gasoline reserves ahead of the summer driving season in the United States starting in May, when many Americans hit the roads on holiday, pushing up fuel demand.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

D	R	A	B	A	S	K	K	A	T	E				
I	O	N	E	L	E	I	A	R	K	S				
G	O	N	G	O	T	T	R	I	O	T				
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		S	O	D		B	E	N		A	V	E		
		E	N	G		H	R	S		F	A	D	E	D
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				M	T	A		O	R	A				
		T	R	I	M		K	I	M		B	O	T	H
		W	I	L	Y		U	N	E		I	R	A	Q
		A	P	E	S		P	S	T		A	B	C	S

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Guatemala's first lady divorces "for her country"

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala – Most loving couples hope their marriage will last "until death us do part." But for Guatemala's first lady, politics got there first.

Sandra Torres tearily announced on Thursday she had divorced her husband President Alvaro Colom for the sake of the nation, thereby hoping to skirt a law in Guatemala that blocks the president's relatives from running for office.

A constitutional clause dating from Guatemala's transition to democracy in the mid-1980s after decades of autocratic rule prevents family members of the president from taking power.

But Torres, who was already a divorcee, hopes to step into Colom's shoes after an election later this year.

An ambitious politician who many analysts say wields signif-



Sandra Torres

icant power behind the scenes in Colom's center-left National Union of Hope (UNE) party, Torres said she was putting the Guatemalan people before her own personal happiness.

"I am getting a divorce from my husband, but I am getting married to the people," the 51-year-old Torres said at a

news conference.

The couple quietly filed for divorce by mutual consent in a family court on March 11 but the news was not made public until this week. The couple refused to say whether they would remarry later and declined to talk about their living arrangements.

A must see while on Aruba!

The Aruba Ostrich Farm



Welcome to an activity at Aruba you can't miss! When you think of Aruba, you probably think sea, sun and beach. But Aruba has more to offer than that, there're different sort of activities you can do. A must see when you are at Aruba, is the Aruba Ostrich Farm.

Although Africa is the native land of the ostrich, this intriguing bird finds a perfect home in Aruba's rugged landscape. The Aruba Ostrich Farm welcomes you to come and meet its 80-count flock of the largest living species in the world.

Visitors are encouraged to partake in a guided tour of the farm, inhabited by both ostriches and their flightless Australian relatives, emus. The tour provides the opportunity to learn about the natural behavior and survival instincts of these amazing creatures through detailed information as well as per-

sonal encounters with the birds.

Before or after the tour, guests are welcome to peruse the African Art Shop, chock-full of authentic goods from South Africa. Or simply relax in the shade of the sprawling Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant and sample a delicious ostrich meat dish. Enjoy the panoramic views of the island's northern coast while sipping on a fruity shake or frosty beer from the bar.

The Aruba Ostrich Farm is dedicated to providing a memorable and unique experience for all guests. It's one of the things you have to do when you are at Aruba.

The ostrich farm is located along the road leading to the Natural Bridge (Mati-vidiri 57). Opening hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with tour ever half hour. Kitchen opening hours are from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!



Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years.

Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.

Make Aruba your second home! Condominiums from the \$300s.

You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the resort amenities of the Divi collection.

For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email: sales@diviarubaresidences.com

We hope you will soon call Aruba home!

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Liz Taylor laid to rest at LA cemetery



UNITED STATES, Hollywood : Family members leave the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California after the funeral of screen legend Elizabeth Taylor, Thursday. Legendary Hollywood actress and violet-eyed beauty Elizabeth Taylor, who captured hearts in "National Velvet" to launch a film career that spanned five decades, died Wednesday aged 79. Taylor had been in Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai hospital for six weeks with congestive heart failure, a condition with which she had struggled for some years and had recently suffered complications, a family statement said. "She was surrounded by her children: Michael Wilding, Christopher Wilding, Liza Todd, and Maria Burton," it said, noting that Taylor, who married eight times, was survived by 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Broadway dimmed lights for Liz Taylor



The media surrounds flowers on Elizabeth Taylor's star on the Hollywood walk of Fame in Hollywood, California

NEW YORK (AFP) – Broadway theaters have dimmed their lights Friday in remembrance of Hollywood goddess Elizabeth Taylor, whose long career included spells acting in New York theaters.

"The Broadway community mourns the loss of Elizabeth Taylor, legendary stage and screen star," a statement from the theater industry group said.

"The marquees of Broadway theatres in New York was dimmed in her memory on Friday, March 25th, at exactly 8:00pm for one minute."

Taylor, who won two Oscars, died Wednesday in Los Angeles. She was 79.

Although best known for her screen roles, she also worked in theater and made fa-

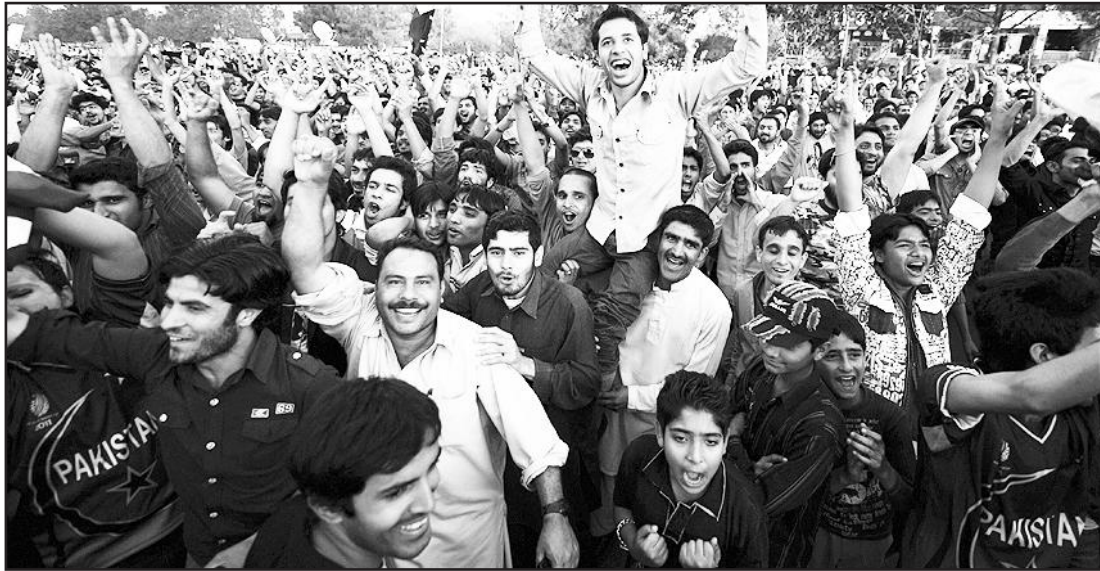
mous performances in movie versions of stage classics, including Tennessee William's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Taylor appeared on Broadway in the revival of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," earning a nomination for the 1981 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play.

In 1983, she was producer and star of Noel Coward's "Private Lives" opposite her former husband, Richard Burton.

"With her remarkable talent and extraordinary beauty, Elizabeth Taylor lit up the Broadway stage the same way she lit up the silver screen," said Paul Libin, head of The Broadway League.

Cricket: India vs Pakistan - the ultimate love-hate clash



PAKISTAN, Islamabad : Pakistani cricket fans celebrate on a street in Islamabad after Pakistan won their quarter-final Cricket World Cup tournament match against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium in Dhaka. Pakistan crushed the West Indies by 10 wickets to reach the World Cup semi-finals.

(AFP PHOTO)

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) - The clash between India and Pakistan in the World Cup semi-finals will showcase one of the world's most intense sporting rivalries fuelled by nationalism, bloodshed and a shared history.

The two countries have had a fraught relationship since Pakistan was carved out of India to establish a Muslim homeland when British rule of the sub-continent ended in 1947.

They have fought two wars over the disputed region of Kashmir, another over the creation of Bangladesh, and they last came to the brink of warfare as recently as 2002.

On the cricket field, a knock-out World Cup match on Indian soil is the biggest fixture between the two rivals for decades, and the excitement across the region is already sky-high ahead of Wednesday's clash in Mohali.

After Thursday's victory over defending champions Australia, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said Pakistan were the ultimate opponents.

"India v Pakistan in the semi-finals -- it doesn't get better," he said. "A World Cup hosted by the sub-continental nations and India and Pakistan making it to the semis."

Pakistan coach Waqar Yousuf said that "there is no bigger rivalry in the game", while captain Shahid Afridi even expressed hope that a Pakistan-India match "could improve relations".

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said he planned to attend the match and invited

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani to also watch the game.

"There is huge excitement over the match and we are all looking forward to a great game of cricket that will be a victory for sport," said Singh in his invitation to the leaders.

The two countries had broken off cricket ties -- except for a couple of volatile Test matches in India -- for 15 years before India's historic tour of Pakistan in 2004.

Fierce competitiveness, even hatred, is evident whenever India and Pakistan play, but recent games have also been marked by a sense of cross-border comradeship.

The conflicting emotions reflect the complex state of relations, which are often compared to those within an estranged family.

Pakistani flags have occasionally been raised in the Muslim slums of Hindu-majority India during games -- causing predictable outrage.

More strikingly though, the matches in 2004 when the India side returned to Pakistan prompted an outburst of affection.

Thousands of Indians were granted special visas to attend the fixtures, and many said that they had been greeted like long-lost brothers as taxi-drivers gave them free lifts and hotels refused to charge them for rooms.

At the first game of the tour, in Karachi, the local crowd cheered both sides and even gave a standing ovation when India won by just five runs.

The contrast between polit-

ical and sporting links was again on display at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi last year, when many outsiders were surprised to hear the Pakistan team given a huge cheer at the opening ceremony.

Newspaper front-pages on Friday set the tone for the coming days. "Bring on Pakistan!" screamed the Mail Today in Delhi, as the Hindustan Times warned "Pakistan next test of nerves for India".

In Islamabad, the Express Tribune looked forward to the occasion with "Rekindling rivalries: it is India v Pakistan," while the Daily Times predicted a "blockbuster" game.

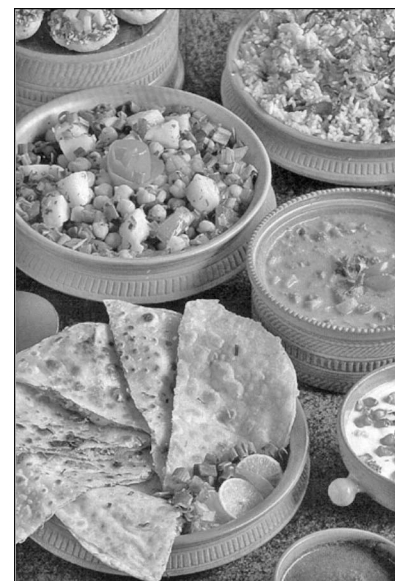
Whether cricket can help the two nuclear-armed nations to narrow their differences is uncertain, particularly as Pakistan struggles with militant suicide attacks, political assassinations and a collapsing economy.

Diplomatic tensions have remained high since Pakistan-based Islamist militants attacked Mumbai in 2008 killing 166 people -- though the two countries' foreign ministers are due to hold talks in Delhi in July.

Fears of another attack will mean a massive security presence in Mohali, and the Times of India summed up how the prospect of the game triggered excitement tinged with apprehension.

"It's a match fans, organisers and advertisers have been fantasizing about, and the fact that it will be Pakistan's first on Indian soil since 26/11 (the Mumbai attacks) lends an extra edge," it said.

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New Zealand dump South Africa to reach semis



BANGLADESH, Dhaka : New Zealand players celebrate after victory in the quarter-final match of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 between South Africa and New Zealand

DHAKA, India - South Africa's reputation as cricket's perennial chokers returned to haunt them as New Zealand pulled off a dramatic 49-run win on Friday to qualify for the World Cup semi-finals.

The Black Caps, restricted to 221-8 after taking first strike, bundled out South Africa for 172 in an exciting finish in front of 23,000 fans at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium.

Jacob Oram was New Zealand's man of the match with four wickets and two catches, while off-spinner Nathan McCullum sealed the Proteas' fate with three for 24 from 10 overs.

It will be New Zealand's sixth appearance in the semi-finals, where they await the winners of today's match be-

tween Sri Lanka and England in Colombo

South Africa, often regarded as the best team never to have the World Cup, have now lost in three semi-finals, two quarter-finals and once in the first round.

"There are no words to describe how I feel," said Smith.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori praised his team's spirit.

"Every single bowler stepped up today, and probably it was the fielding that got us through," said Vettori.

South Africa's ploy to throw the new ball to a spinner worked again as left-armers Robin Peterson dismissed Brendon McCullum in his second over with a superb diving return catch.

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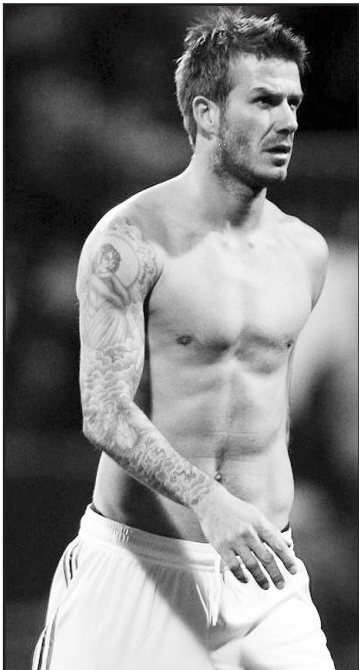


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Beckham to captain LA Galaxy



LOS ANGELES (AFP) — David Beckham is to captain the Los Angeles Galaxy for the first time in three years.

Bruce Arena, coach of the Major League Soccer club, de-

cided that former England captain Beckham will wear the captain's arm band on Saturday when the Galaxy visit MLS rivals Real Salt Lake.

"Bruce has asked me to wear it, and I'll be proud to wear it," said Beckham, who is in the final season of the contract that brought him to Los Angeles.

"It doesn't change the way I play. It's something you're very proud to wear, but you need more than that one leader on the field."

Beckham took over as captain when he joined the team amid great fanfare in 2007.

However, he last captained the Galaxy on October 26, 2008. The armband was given to US midfielder Landon Donovan the following year.

Donovan will miss Saturday's game to be with the United States team hosting Argentina in a friendly at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Pendleton, Meares sail through sprint formalities

APELDOORN, The Netherlands (AFP) — World and Olympic champion Victoria Pendleton sailed into the second round of the women's sprint tournament at the world track cycling championships on Friday.

Pendleton, 30, is aiming for a sixth world sprint crown in six years and, with a second round match against compatriot Rebecca James, will be expected to qualify for the quarter-finals later Friday.

On-form Australian Anna Meares, who beat Pendleton recently in a World Cup event, also coasted into the second round where she will meet Britain's Jessica Varish.

Meares took silver behind Pendleton at the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 and, after years of flirting with worlds success in the sprint, said before the competition she feels ready to win her maiden world title in the event.

The 27-year-old Victorian, who won team sprint gold with Kaarle McCulloch on Thursday, sacrificed defending her 500 metre time trial crown in a bid to have fresher legs for the sprint tournament.



World and Olympic champion Victoria Pendleton, seen here in 2010, sailed into the second round of the women's sprint tournament.



PORTUGAL, OURIQUE : Petter Solberg of Norway and co-driver Chris Patterson of England steer their Citroen DS3 WRC during the first stage of the Portugal Rally near Ourique, southern Portugal, on March 25, 2011.

AFP PHOTO



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Jerusalem runs first marathon despite bomb, protests

JERUSALEM (AFP) – In the shadow of a fatal bus bombing and in the face of opposition from Palestinians and leftist Israelis, about 10,000 runners took part yesterday in Jerusalem's first-ever marathon.

The race, which passes through stretches of the city's annexed Arab eastern sector, forced the closure of many city streets and left the few thoroughfares remaining open choked with bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Apart from the 42.2 kilometre (26.2 mile) full course, participants have the option of running a half-marathon, a 10 kilometre (6.2 mile) course or a 4.2 kilometre (2.6 mile) fun-run.

Following a Wednesday bomb attack next to Jerusalem's central bus station, in which a British bible student was killed and more than 30 people were wounded, Mayor Nir Barkat defied suggestions the event be cancelled over security concerns.

"When terror attempts to disrupt our way of life, the best solution is to get back to normal as quickly as possible," he told reporters at the bomb scene. "Events in Jerusalem will not be cancelled and Jerusalem will not stop running."

In addition to 6,000 Israelis, who include 2,000 soldiers, the city council said Jerusalem is hosting about 4,000 foreign runners and journalists, from around 40 countries.

Starting from the Knesset, Israel's parliament, the route takes runners up and down several hills, through the walled Old City and other areas of east Jerusalem, including the biblical Mount of Olives.

The Jerusalem Post daily said that three of the runners - a Christian, a Jew and a Muslim - were to wear T-shirts proclaiming, "Three religions, one God."

The Post's website said there was confusion over the winners of the full marathon as the three leading runners apparently took a wrong turn and arrived at the finish line for the half-marathon, which is in a different place.

It said the first runner to arrive at the correct line, and the tentative winner of the race, was Kenyan Robert Cheriot with a time of 2:27:48.

The other three, it said, had faster times and organisers were still trying to assess final results.

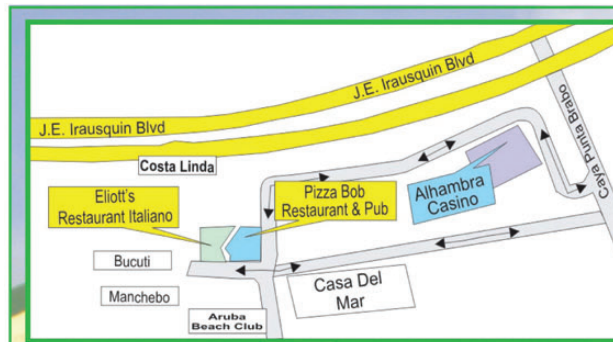
The event drew fire from the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Committee, which sent a letter of protest to German sportswear giant, Adidas, one of the main sponsors of the event, for backing an Israeli event involving east Jerusalem and including Israeli soldiers.

It also took Adidas to task for partnering co-sponsor Eden Springs, an Israeli bottler of mineral water on the occupied Golan Heights.

Spain to play USA in friendly in June

MADRID, Spain (AFP) – World Cup champions Spain will face the United States in a friendly in Boston on June 4, the Spanish football federation announced yesterday.

It will be the first encounter between the two sides since the USA defeated Spain 2-0 in the semi-final of the Confederations Cup in South Africa in 2009.



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Recovering Soderling wins in Miami

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) – Fourth seed Robin Soderling staged a fightback to start his campaign at the ATP-WTA Miami Masters yesterday, with the Swede earning a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Croatian Ivan Dodig to reach the third round.

Two-time Roland Garros fi-

nalist Soderling was playing for the first time in almost two weeks since losing his first match at Indian Wells after trying to play with an ankle problem and after five days in bed with a virus.

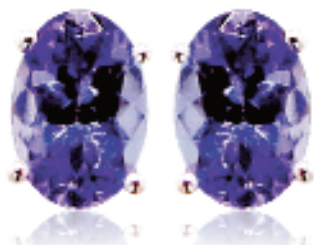
"The first round is always very difficult," said the relieved Scandinavian. "Obvi-

ously I didn't play my best tennis today, but I'm still very happy that I won.

With three titles already this season, the Indian Wells loss was a blip on the Soderling record in 2011, where he has now won a leading 20 matches on the ATP.

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